

Report on Hotel Use Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

FEMA direct payment program for hotel rooms
through Corporate Lodging Consultants (CLC).

November 28, 2005

Estimates of hotel room occupancy as part of the FEMA Short-Term Lodging Program are based on invoice information provided to FEMA by Corporate Lodging Consultants, Inc. (CLC). CLC may receive invoices from thousands of Short-Term Lodging Program hotel participants on a daily, weekly, semi-monthly or longer term basis, depending on the discretion of an individual hotel. An invoice from an individual hotel may include room charges over any number of days, past and/or future. Therefore, although FEMA receives invoicing information from CLC on a regular basis, reports derived from these invoices may not equate to exact locations where evacuees are staying on a given day, and nuanced interpretation of daily changes in estimates may reflect trends in invoicing rather than trends in occupancy.

The 14-day average of room nights billed is NOT a literal count of hotel rooms in use under the program, but is an estimate and has been reported as such in all reports to date. The figures represented are an abstraction arrived at by a formula, as CLC possesses no mechanism to determine the number of rooms in use on a given night. Here is the explanation of the two major elements of the report:

14-Day Average of Room-Nights Billed:

There is no mechanism to determine the number of rooms in use on a given recent night.

FEMA and CLC learn of room use only when CLC receives bills from participating hotels for those rooms. CLC receives bills on a daily, weekly, or even bi-weekly basis, depending on the individual property's standard billing procedure. These bills can be for room charges over any number of days, past and/or future.

An example of a typical bill is a charge for a single room for 9 days, that is, 9 "room-nights." That bill may be for a room used for 9 days last month, or for last night and 8 additional days forward into the future. On a recent weekday, CLC was billed for a total of 103,526 room-nights. The next day CLC was billed for a total of 58,005 room nights. The difference between invoices on these two days is not necessarily indicative of fewer rooms used on the second day.

Our approach is to average these numbers over a 14-day period. "14-Day Average of Room-Nights Billed" is calculated according to the following formula:

- Add all room-nights billed over the previous 14 days, then divide by 14.

The result gives us the best indication of recent hotel room billings, but *not at all an actual count*, of recent daily room use.

Number of Hotels Billing CLC (over previous 14 days)

- This is a count of individual hotels that have submitted bills to CLC during the 14-day reporting period.

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State	Number of Hotels That Have Invoiced CLC Nov. 15 - 28, 2005
TX	1,161
GA	471
LA	454
FL	402
CA	238
MS	216
TN	203
AL	202
AR	179
MO	74
VA	72
NC	71
IL	58
OK	43
WA	39
AZ	39
MD	38
CO	35
SC	32
OH	32
OR	27
NJ	27
NY	27
NV	26
PA	25
MI	24
MA	23
MN	22
KY	20
IN	19
CT	18
KS	17
IA	17
WI	16
NM	16
NE	8
DE	7
ME	5
DC	5
AK	4
WV	4
VT	3
NH	3
WY	3
ID	3
UT	2
MT	2
RI	2
HI	2
SD	1
ND	0
Total	4,437

State	Room Nights Billed (14 Day Average) Nov. 28
TX	13,401
LA	10,864
GA	5,378
FL	2,892
MS	2,511
AL	1,389
CA	1,073
TN	996
AR	855
NV	577
NY	326
NC	282
VA	245
WA	183
IL	170
MI	159
MO	155
OH	129
SC	119
CO	110
OK	82
MD	81
OR	76
NJ	54
KS	51
AZ	49
NE	47
MA	38
MN	37
KY	37
IA	36
DC	34
CT	33
ME	29
PA	28
IN	26
DE	24
WI	21
RI	16
NM	12
AK	9
HI	8
WV	6
WY	5
VT	4
SD	4
ID	4
UT	2
MT	2
NH	2
ND	0
Total	42,671

Source data provided to FEMA by CLC, based on invoices recieved from individual hotels.